

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay. The examiner has indicated that the case contains allowable subject matter.

Some minor purely formal corrections have been entered in the claims to improve the language and correct an obvious error. No new matter whatsoever has been added.

Claim 5 is rejected on a combination of the teachings of US 6,213,625 of Leadford and 6,721,101 of Daniell.

By the examiner's own admission, Leadford does not show the structure of the two faces of the lens plate according to the invention. Leadford merely shows that the lens-plate face turned toward the lamp has generally spherical recesses, but the outer face is generally flat in all embodiments.

It is, however, the structuring of the inner and outer faces of the lens plate that is critical to the instant invention.

Daniell shows a lens that bears in respects a certain resemblance to the system of this invention. The teachings of Daniell do not, however, relate to a lens plate for a lamp. Instead this reference deals with a stereo-optic hologram projector as clearly laid out in column 1, lines 13-19 and 59-60. The system of Daniell serves to improve the quality of systems that are

intended to be looked at, not that are intended to "illuminate a surface" as defined in claim 5. This effect is achieved by a system of three lenses 125, 150, and 175 with a plurality of different surface materials (see column 14, lines 9 to 27). Thus Daniell relates to a lens, but not of the type specifically recited in claim 5. The lens of Daniell relates to the reproduction of three-dimensional images, not to a light fixture.

Furthermore, according to Daniell the maximum diameter of a given lens according to FIG. 20a as described in column 33 in lines 40 to 43 is 300 μm , that is 0.3 mm. This lies seriously outside the range of claim 5, namely 1 mm to 5 mm.

Furthermore Daniell does not describe a lens plate on a housing holding a lamp. But instead (see column 51, lines 11-13) the lens works with a detector. Further applications are in cell phones, PDA's, and the like (see column 53, lines 26-30). In no case is there anything resembling a lamp in a housing behind the lens plate of Daniell.

Thus Daniell describes a lens plate having use in a photo-taking system or perhaps a display, but in no system is it used as a light source. It is not in any way intended to cast light on a "surface to be illuminated" as clearly recited in claim 5. No-one skilled in the art who was putting together a light fixture would have recourse to the technology of displaying three-dimensional images or holograms.

Daniell and Leadford are nonanalogous art. The examiner has taken a structure - the lens plate of Daniell - and proposed

using it in a light fixture, even though neither of the references showing the various elements of the invention suggest anything resembling the combination seen as obvious by the examiner.

Even if an attempt were made to combine Leadford and Daniell, the resultant combination would not meet claim 5. The Daniell structure has three lenses or optical surfaces, which is not the case with the instant invention.

Leadford shows a system where one face of the lens, the inner face turned toward the light source, is flat (column 6, lines 16 - 20). The outer face of Leadford does not have the spherical bumps of this invention either. Instead Leadford has prismatic recesses with bumps at their centers. The main function of the Leadford structure is to minimize the amount of material used (see column 1, lines 62 - 67). The lens plate of Leadford bears no resemblance to the system of this invention. Every embodiment of Leadford has, at the base of each recess, a bump. This structure is clearly essential and bears no resemblance to that of the instant invention as defined in claim 5. Thus there is no suggestion anywhere to modify Leadford to form it as defined in claim 5.

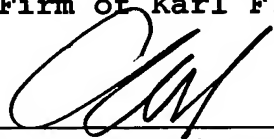
The lens plate of Daniell more closely resembles that of the instant invention, but used in an altogether different context. Taking this lens, which was made for a specific purpose unrelated to that of Leadford's, and putting it in the Leadford system would be bizarre. No person skilled in the art would presume that a lens

used for displaying three-dimensional images would be usable in a light fixture.

For these reasons all of the claims in the case are clearly in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Request for extension (three months)